



By Dr. Telly Kamelia

Key Decision Summary

- **Edition Fit:** ISBN 9780357936498 matches the sixth-edition paperback of *Introduction to Health Care*.
- **Best Short-Term Value:** The 180-day digital option is much cheaper than the current paperback listing.
- **Best Ownership Value:** The current paperback listing still sits below the sampled used and official new-print comparators.
- **Courseware Check:** Check for MindTap or bundled assignment requirements before assuming print alone is enough.
- **Price Snapshot Date:** April 15, 2026

If you only need the buying answer

If you only need this book for one introductory course, the 180-day digital option at **\$54.99** is the smarter short-term buy. If you are entering allied health and want a foundation text you can keep for terminology, patient rights, communication, ethics, and career orientation, the current paperback listing at **\$95.99** is still a defensible ownership choice because it is cheaper than the sampled used copy and well below the official new-book comparator.

Store	Format	Condition	Price	Link
Merybook	Paperback	New	\$95.99	Check listing
eCampus	Digital	180-day access	\$54.99	Check price
eCampus	Paperback	Used	\$127.50	Check price

Store	Format	Condition	Price	Link
eCampus	Paperback	New	\$167.11	Check price

This is a different kind of decision from a highly specialized clinical book. *Introduction to Health Care* is a foundation text. That means the reader has to decide whether the value lies in temporary course access or in keeping a broad orientation book nearby while moving through later allied-health training.

What this book actually teaches

Cengage describes the sixth edition as an introduction to healthcare systems, careers, professionalism, ethics, communication, documentation, patient rights, drug dosage basics, and current issues such as the opioid crisis, personalized medicine, suicide prevention, and health disparities. It is designed to orient newcomers to the field rather than to drill one narrow specialty. In practical terms, it helps students learn the language and expectations that later healthcare courses often assume but do not reteach.

That makes the book useful in a different way from a specialist reference. Its value is not repeated consultation for one technical procedure. Its value is that it gives beginning students a stable framework for understanding how healthcare work is organized, what professional behavior looks like, and how patients, systems, and careers connect.

When print is worth keeping

If this class is only an entry requirement and you simply need access long enough to finish the term, the 180-day eText is the better economic decision. If you are at the beginning of a longer allied-health pathway, the paperback has a stronger case than the price gap alone might suggest, because foundation books are often most useful precisely when students start encountering later classes, field experiences, or workplace expectations that assume this background.

The caution is the same one that applies to many Cengage titles: if the course requires MindTap or bundled assignments, the standalone print price is not necessarily the whole course cost.

Sources checked

- Cengage product page for *Introduction to Health Care*, 6th edition: [cengage.com](https://www.cengage.com)
- Cengage catalog summary with updated coverage notes: [cengage.uk](https://www.cengage.com)
- Recent course-adoption example using this ISBN: [textbook adoption list](#)
- Current marketplace and format pricing reviewed on April 15, 2026.